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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thelma Fenster will be the General Editor of MFN for 1988-89. Please send all future correspondence to her at the Center for Medieval Studies, K107, Fordham Univ., Bronx N.Y. 10458.

Membership Dues:

The Fall issue will include an updated directory of MFN subscribers. Please send the membership form at the end of this newsletter along with the yearly subscription fee of \$5 to our new membership officer, Rosemary De Julio, at the Center for Medieval Studies, K 107 Fordham University, Bronx, NY, 10458. The deadline for new subscriptions and renewals for the academic year 1988-89 is October 15, 1988. The \$5 fee entitles you to two issues of MFN, appearing in December and June respectively. Those who subscribed for the first time at Kalamazoo 1988 will receive this newsletter but must resubscribe for 1988-89 in order to receive subsequent issues. If you have already renewed, please pass the form on to a friend.

ALSO SEND bibliography. The FALL ISSUE will focus on bibliography. Its success depends on your generous contributions! Annotated entries are, of course, preferable. But annotation is not necessary. We would like MFN to represent as broad a spectrum as possible. Bibliographic entries for all disciplines in Medieval Studies are welcome!

The Fall Issue:

MFN will gladly print book reviews. Please limit submissions to 500 words. Katharina Wilson has offered to supply a review copy of her Hrotsvit of Gandersheim: Rara Avis in Saxonia. Anyone interested in reviewing it should contact Thelma Fenster.

A "Notes and Queries" column will appear in the Fall issue to facilitate the exchange of information. If you are looking for information on a specific topic and want to call for "help" in

finding it, if you seek collaborators on a project or have other messages or queries for the membership, let us know.

Commentary Column:

In the December Issue "Commentary" will provide a series of responses to R. Howard Bloch's article on "Medieval Misogyny," Representations 20 (Fall 1987). Anyone interested in commenting on Bloch's argument, addressing in particular its implications for feminists critics of the Middle Ages, is encouraged to contact Thelma Fenster (see address above) by August 15. Responses (500 words maximum) will be due by October 1, 1988. Prof. Bloch has been invited to reply in the Spring issue.

Back Issues: We are looking into the possibility of reprinting back issues and hope to be able to make available previously printed bibliography and teaching information in some form. Stay tuned.

KALAMAZOO 1989:

MFN has proposed the following sessions for the Kalamazoo Conference next year. Contact the session organizers for more information.

- 1) Feminist Approaches to Dante
Anne Howland Schotter, Wagner College
- 2) Crossing Boundaries: Period, Genre, Sources
Nancy Jones, 77 Randall Rd. Princeton, N.J.
08540
- 3) Orality and Literacy of Medieval Women
Elizabeth Petroff, Comparative Literature
Univ. of Mass., Amherst
- 4) Popular Treatises of Spiritual Guidance for Women
Laurie Bergamini, Wadamschall Seminary,
Ogdensburg, N.J.
Linda Barney Burke, Elmhurst College
- 5) Feminist Theory and Medieval and Renaissance Texts
E. Jane Burns, Romance Languages, Univ. of
No. Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514
- 6) Women, History and Literature: The Methods of Approach
Jacqueline Murray, Dept. of History, Univ. of
Windsor, Windsor Ontario M5S 1K7, Canada
- 7) Feminism and the Text: Translating and Editing the Medieval Text
Bonnie Duncan (no address given)
- 8) Women Patrons in the Middle Ages and Renaissance
Judy Kem, Wake Forest Univ.
- 9) Feminist Approaches to Chaucer
Elizabeth Robertson, English Dept., Univ. of
Colorado, Boulder, Co. 80309
Karma Lochrie, Loyola Univ. of Chicago
6525 Sheridan Rd. Chicago, IL 60626

- 10) Renaissance Feminist Forum: Problems in Practice and Theory
Karen Robertson, English Dept., Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12601
- 11) Renaissance Feminist Forum: Readings of one Female Renaissance Author's Texts (still to be chosen)
Pamela Benson, English Dept., Rhode Island College, Providence, RI

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

There will be an all-day symposium on Gender and Medieval Studies at King's College, Cambridge, Saturday, December 17, 1988. For information contact Sarah Kay (Girton College) or Simon Gaunt.

New Viking Perspectives Conference will be held in Glasgow in early September 1988. One or two sessions will be devoted to gender relations. For information contact Ross Samson and Pamela Graves, Archaeology Department, The University, Glasgow, G128QQ, GB.

Archaeological Review from Cambridge will dedicate its next issue to "Women in Archaeology," addressing the issues of gender biases in the interpretation of the archaeological record, the portrayal of women in the past and how a "feminist archaeology" might be defined. Issue scheduled to appear May 1988.

Gallerie is a new women's publication devoted to women's art and women artists. The first issue, the 1988 Annual, to appear in June 1988, is a book-length publication featuring the work of over 40 women artists in various media. Three magazine-scale issues will follow next year. For further information including editorial guidelines for authors, write to: Gallerie Publications, Box 2901 Panorama Dr, North Vancouver, B.C. Canada V7G 2A4.

Valerie Shubik, St. Anthony's College, Oxford, England, OX2 6JF seeks letters of support for a new journal on "Women in Literature." Solidly academic, this international journal would give a voice to modern feminists addressing Canadian and Australian writers as well as American and British authors.

COMMENTARY

Two Commentaries ago (MFN No. 3, June 1987) we asked how medievalists might undertake the kind of "archaeological" work which has allowed scholars working in later periods to find more of the writing done by women. That search has resulted in a reconsideration of non-traditional forms, among them, letters. Professor Joan Ferrante, Columbia University, is looking into one possible approach to the study of medieval women's letters.

Conversation with Joan Ferrante

Prof. Ferrante was among the earliest scholars of medieval literature to turn their attention to the study of women. Her book, Woman as Image in Medieval Literature, From the Twelfth Century to Dante (New York: reprint paper, Labyrinth, 1985) was one of the first studies written from the perspective of modern feminism. Whereas Woman as Image charted the depiction of (the) female characters in literature written by men, Prof. Ferrante is